The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a full report of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter December 20, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 12, 1918.

WHOLE NO. 953. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JULY 13, 1929. FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 19, NO. 18.

Abuse is the weapon of the vulgar.—Goodrich.

LABOR PARTY MAGICIANS ARE AGAIN TALKING

Alfred Baker Lewis, member National Executive Committee, Socialist Party, writing in a New York newspaper, revamps the old claim that trade unionists would form a Labor Party but for their officials.

Mr. Baker is a confident individual and expresses the last word thusly:

"I can say quite definitely that the failure to establish a Labor Party in the United States to which the unions could affiliate as they do in Great Britain, is due to the attitude of nearly all the American trade union officials."

If the writer understood the structure of the labor movement he would be less prone to speak "quite definitely."

He would know, for instance, that the 1906 A. F. of L. convention, in refusing to indorse a Labor Party, declared that the A. F. of L. must first "obtain new power from the affiliated bodies that make up the Federation."

How many conventions of A. F. of L. affiliates have declared for a Labor Party? These conventions consist of delegates elected directly by the membership of local unions. Delegates to A. F. of L. conventions are either elected by referendum or by conventions of affiliates.

Under this democratic system, how can a fact-facing person declare that "nearly all the American trade union officials" are responsible for the absence of a Labor Party?

Our Socialist friend does not understand the American labor movement. This is natural for those who have a mystic faith that political parties are the work of "leaders."

Mr. Baker and his kind judge our country and our labor movement by Europe, where peoples in areas smaller than many of our states have a centuries'-old faith in government, one language and an historic national background. Their caste system tends to discipline in social activities that revolve around control of government.

There is no party spirit in America. Our people have faith not in government—as in Europe—but in themselves. While this faith often fails to be expressed, the fact is historical.

Mr. Baker and his kind have long attempted to change the outlook of American trade unionists that fit into the American ideal, just as the activities of European workers fit into the ideals of their respective countries.

Labor Party advocates in this country can not alibi repeated failures by misrepresenting trade union officials and craftily libel the intelligence of the members of organized labor.

They should know that a Labor Party can not be assembled as a magician pulls a rabbit out of a silk hat.

"Writing pieces" in a newspaper may attract passing attention, but the test is in a labor convention composed of directly-elected representatives of wage workers in mill, factory and mine.

That's where trade union officials can be unhorsed.

Why does not Mr. Baker and his kind beard the lion in his den?

Have stinging rebuffs developed cautiousness and a love for long-range fighting?

Peace In Cloak Industry Looms; Employers Drop Hostile Policy

New York, July 13.—Cloak manufacturers and jobbers accepted Governor Roosevelt's suggestion that they join with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union to work out a lasting peace in that industry.

The agreement expired June 1 and 30,000 employes suspended work after failing to reach an agreement that would end sweatshop methods. Another evil is chain system patronage of jobbers who deal with sweating establishments. These jobbers pledged Governor Roosevelt that they will employ nogo but members of the contractors' association and only deal with union shops.

This is a reversal of former policies as inside manufacturers and jobbers heretofore jockeyed to maintain a weak union.

"This is the first time in 19 years that jobbers agreed to have their garments made in shops that are under direct supervision and control of the union," said David Dubinsky, acting president International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

Picket lines are maintained while the Governor's conference is on, as the workers will not surrender their advantage. They will also report violations of the law to the proper State authorities.

The workers are also resisting the legalization of piecework, which Communists permitted when they managed the cloak strike three years ago that almost wrecked the union and caused a loss of work standards that were won after years of effort.

8-HOUR VIOLATORS CAN'T BE ENJOINED

Baltimore, July 13. The Maryland Court of Appeals annulled Judge O'Dunne's injunction against the City of Baltimore and several contractors who violated the eight-hour law.

The court said, in effect:

The court refuses to be placed in the position of watching for violation of law by those engaged in building; there are no property rights involved; the complainants should go to the criminal court.

The decision again calls attention to the distinction between violation of a criminal law and interference with a so-called "property" right. Equity courts only claim jurisdiction over the latter.

If trade unionists suspended work to enforce the law, they could be enjoined on the ground that they "conspired" to interfere with the contractors' prospective profits, which is now classed as "property."

As equity is intended to protect property, the inclusion of prospective profits in this list permits employers to appeal to equity courts in strike times.

FORCE CAN'T MAINTAIN INJUSTICE

Child labor amendment foes urge Secretary of State Stimson to declare that that proposal is officially dead.

This is standpat philosophy—that injustice can be continued by solemn governmental edict.

Believers in this theory kidnap trade union officials, use injunction judges to break strikes and insist that "agitators" are responsible for industrial unrest.

Men who believe the voice of protest can be stilled never reason from cause to effect. They are as simple as the child who is sure thunder causes lightning.

Other elements in this group are capable of noting an evident fact, as were French aristocrats who saw the gathering social clouds, but who exclaimed: "Postpone every remedy; after us the deluge."

"EVERYBODY WILL GET RICH" NEW "EDUCATIONAL" STUNT

Washington, July 13.—Writers of books have discovered a new gold mine—every one will be a millionaire through mass production.

Following the Armistice the gold mine was "industrial democracy." Differences between capitalists and wage earners would be adjusted through "employes' representation," now known as the company "union."

Every scribbler in the land put at least one book on the market, while magazines and feature sections of newspapers were filled with tales of the industrial dawn.

This campaign was a counter movement to offset the high hopes of workers following the World War. The sheen wore off "employes' representation," and the new toy is "Make Everybody Rich." The public is assured that the goal of captains of industry is not profits, but service, and that "high" wages, vast combinations and "low" prices are creating a second industrial revolution that will make everyone a millionaire.

The workers acknowledge that increasing cost of distribution is a problem and that unemployment follows mass production. These awkward questions are airily waved aside with the statement that they can be settled by "industrial coordination"—captains of industry will solve the problem. Workers will play no part in this process, which is based on hope.

The books are sold like the proverbial "hot cakes," but organized workers fail to note the advertised changed outlook of captains of industry when they ask for a wage increase.

The workers must depend on their trade unions. They must also create a new theory that is being quietly urged by economists in the employ of captains of industry.

These economists insist that workers are not entitled to a share of wealth through mass production and scientific processes, as this system is the result of "brains"—the worker is classed as a robot.

This theory is not being widely advertised, as it runs counter to the new public "education" that everyone will shortly reach the millionaire class.

The tactic of this double system of "education" is that the captains of industry will hold their increased profits while the public will ask: "Why are trade unions necessary when everyone will get rich?"

WIRE MEN RAISE WAGES

Seattle, July 13.—Inside electricians advanced wages to $11 a day. Four hundred workers were involved in this movement.

COOLIDGE'S "L-AND-O" PROGRAM MAPPED OUT BY PUBLICITY MEN

Baltimore, July 13.—Calvin Coolidge's connection with the Boston policemen's strike was "an incredible inertia," declares Frank R. Kent, Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun, in discussing the ability of the former Governor of Massachusetts and former President to secure publicity.

Organized labor insisted at that time that Governor Coolidge took no part in the strike that was forced on the policemen. The workers' protests were drowned by expert publicity agents who made the Governor in the vice presidential chair and then in the White House on the death of Gompers, "the law and order" decry by an Oregon delegate that swept the nominating convention is now shown by Mr. Kent to be publicity stuff.

The Washington correspondent writes:

"As a propagandist Mr. Coolidge had him (President Hoover) beaten a mile. That politically seasoned person could take some of the news material and get ten times the favorable publicity. What he did in the Boston police strike is a classic example of his talent in this direction, there still being vastly more people who think he was the shining hero of that episode than know he escaped exposure of an incredible inertia through the issuance of a press statement after the real crisis had passed but before the public had a chance to grasp the fact.

"In his White House press conferences Mr. Coolidge not only did not bar trivial questions—he welcomed them. Looking solemnly down his nose he would loquaciously discourse for 20 minutes about the District of Columbia bathing beach facilities, or the characteristics of a raccoon presented him by an admirer, or of the days when he was mayor of the great city of Northampton. The smaller the subject matter the easier it was for him to talk—and the longer he would talk."

Peace Pacts For Day "Sops For Gullible"

Kansas City, Mo., July 13.—Banquet talks and diplomatic notes may fool the people, but they do not advance the cause of world peace, James Kelly of Scotland, president of the European Christian Endeavor Union, told delegates to the International Christian Endeavor convention here.

The blunt-spoken Scotsman declared that the "Pact of Paris" and other objective diplomatic moves for world peace are sops for gullible minds.

"As far as appearance goes the cause of peace seems to have progressed, but war has been renounced on a scrap of paper," he said. "Any one who has the slightest knowledge of the continent of Europe has some idea of how much justifiable bitterness still exists. Justice and righteousness must go hand in hand with peace before war may be successfully renounced.

"By all means let us have pacts to renounce war but let us not forget that a paper peace only can result from these. We organize for war; peace will require still more organization. We must educate—educate—educate."

The speaker asserted that permanent peace involves a continued education toward elimination of national prides, prejudices and advantages.

Great armament firms are organized for private profit and are still able to foment strife, he said.

INTEMPERATE LAWS SCORED BY MEDICS

Portland, Ore., July 13.—Medical men cheered Dr. William S. Thayer, president American Medical Association, at the conclusion of his condemnation of laws that interfere with individual rights.

"Government by the majority is wholesome and beneficial as long as it is tolerant and considerate," said Dr. Thayer.

"The strength of our government in the past has been in its elasticity and in that it has allowed much latitude in local self-control, in that it has recognized the right of local communities to settled those questions which relate to their everyday life. But there are lengths beyond which a majority may not go.

"In the long run we English-speaking people will not endure tyranny. For immediate concentrated mass action, such as is necessary in time of war, such a government is necessary. We accept it; we demand it. But in time of peace we insist on certain local liberties which we regard as rights.

"When in a country like ours the National Government attempts to legislate for the whole country as to what we may or may not eat or drink, as to how we may dress, as to our religious beliefs, as to what we may or may not read, this is to interfere with those rights dear to every English-speaking man; this is no longer a republican government; it is tyranny."

"REDS" SEEK FUNDS TO DISRUPT UNIONS

New York, July 13.—Communists appeal for funds to finance their Trade Union Educational League convention at Cleveland, beginning August 31.

The "reds" have abandoned their "boring from within" tactics and make no concealment of their purpose to organize dual unions. The National Miners' Union is supplying strike-breakers in Illinois and elsewhere to defeat the United Mine Workers of America. The "reds" have formed a revolutionary union of garment and fur workers in New York and their National Textile Workers' Union that has had charge of the strike in Gastonia, N. C., is "red" through and through.

Revolutionary labor unions that will be the backbone of their revolutionary political party is the purpose of the "reds." They seek financial aid from the regular trade union movement and the A. F. of L. Executive Council has called the unionists' attention to the folly of aiding a movement that would destroy them.

BOASTED FARM RELIEF IS BUT TEMPORARY

Santa Paula, Calif., July 13.—The widely advertised farm relief bill, passed by the last Congress is but temporary legislation and should not be considered a panacea, according to Charles C. Teague, member of the Federal Farm Board.

The farm board can expend $500,000,000 for stabilize prices. Teague warns that if this vast amount of money is unwisely administered it will not stimulate prices or bring on fresh surpluses, making the situation worse than ever.

INCREASE FOR FIREMEN

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, July 13.—The city council voted a wage advance of $5 a month to municipal firemen. These workers are affiliated to International Association of Fire Fighters, an A. F. of L. unit.

PUBLISHERS ASSAIL POWER-PRESS TIES

Asheville, N. C., July 13.—Power trust control of newspapers was denounced by the Southern Newspaper Publishers' Association. The resolution declares that such control is "contrary to sound public policy and a menace to a free press and free institutions."

The Federal Trade Commission uncovered the latest move of the power trust. The commission had previously shown that the trust reached into colleges, women's organizations and dictated economic courses of study in many schools.

STEREOTYPERS GAIN

St. Joseph, Mo., July 13.—Stereotypers and newspaper publishers signed a two year agreement. Wages for day and night work are raised 16 cents an hour.

MERGERS ARE MENACE, SAYS N. Y. GOVERNOR

New York, July 13.—Centralized industrial control and big business combines menace the nation, said Governor Roosevelt in an Independence Day speech in this city.

The state executive declared that "independence in business is a thing of the past."

"The influence of these huge trusts, with their almost unlimited resources, will be felt in this country at a not far distant date," he said.

BRITISH OUT-OF-WORK BENEFITS DEFENDED BY ROYAL COMMISSION

London, England, July 13.—In the final report of the Committee on Industry and Trade, American critics of the British unemployment insurance system are diplomatically told that they don't know what they are talking about.

The committee was appointed in 1924 by Premier Ramsey MacDonald, to make a general survey of British commerce and industry. The committee was continued by Premier Baldwin. Members of the committee, with Sir Arthur Balfour, chairman, included leading business men, economists and representatives of the government, and "has amply justified its establishment," the committee reports.

It is shown that unemployment contributions average less than 1 per cent of the total cost of production. The committee asserts: "We are satisfied that on the whole the resulting advantage to them has very greatly exceeded any burden of this kind."

"There has been practically no decline in the consumption of the essential necessaries of life in spite of the fact that a million or more workers have been earning no wages at their trades. For this happy result, a large part of the responsibility undoubtedly rests with the unemployment insurance scheme.

"In normal times this insurance provides a much needed method of enabling a worker to safeguard himself against the worst evils of industrial fluctuations. Also the individual to provide such a safeguard by means of his own thrift is, of course, impossible in view of the large scale of risks to which industry is exposed. Nor do we think that any basis of insurance other than satisfactory one, such as that which covers the whole field of industry, or at least the principal industrial groups, inasmuch as any narrower scheme would effectively check mobility as between insured and uninsured occupations.

"That work people should by some method of insurance be safeguarded against the serious risks of involuntary unemployment is, in our opinion, a very great advantage, not only to themselves, but to the trades which they follow. For nothing is so detrimental to industrial capacity and morale as long continued idleness without sufficient means of sustenance.

"How the country would have fared had not the industrial machinery been available in its time of need, we find it difficult to imagine."

SPECIAL LABEL DRIVE WILL BE NATION-WIDE

Washington, July 13.—The Union Label Trades Department, A. F. of L., announces that the special educational campaign will be from August 19 to September 2.

This is an annual movement in the interest of the union label, shop card and union button. Central bodies are asked to appoint committees.

"Our annual campaigns have proven an asset to the general labor movement," said John J. Manning, secretary Union Label Trades Department. "Every call for the union label creates an interest in trade unionism outside our ranks.

"The Executive Council of the A. F. of L. recently urged workers to desist from contributing funds to 'borers from within,' and this correct position can be applied by every member of organized labor when they spend wages that their labor organization made possible.

"The union label means more than high wages and good working conditions. It is a proof that wage earners have a voice in industry; that they are not subject to the caprice of an employer and that they live and act as free men and women, without compelling those who formerly dictated their lives.

"The union label is emblematic of freedom and independence. Its presence indicates that that employer accepts the principle of collective bargaining and association of wage earners. To ignore the union label is to repudiate the underlying principle of unionism."

NERVY "BEST CITIZENS" WOULD SET WAGE RATE

San Francisco, July 13.—The effort of so-called "best citizens" to dictate the lives of wage earners was explained to the Catholic Conference on Industrial Problems by Frank C. Macdonald, president California Building Trades Council.

These "best citizens" are the control ling clique in the anti-union Industrial Association. They select a wage board that sets rates for building craftsmen, who have no voice in the proceeding.

"Neither this board nor members of the Industrial Association would pay $3 a day less than paid workers for identical service in other cities. The association has attempted to enforce these awards by putting pressure on contractors through the banks and loan associations.

"The fact that this board sits in judgment upon the wages of building craftsmen alone and ignore thousands of men in various industries who are underpaid, is proof of their hypocrisy."

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS BLOT ON CIVILIZATION

Washington, July 13.—Fatalities in industry are a blot on our civilization, Secretary of Labor Davis in a radio address on the need for education to reduce these accidents.

Mr. Davis cited figures showing 24,000 persons were killed in industrial accidents in 1927, with indications that final figures for 1928 would show a total of 23,000 such accidents.

"Such a great cost upon society for the ravages of industrial accidents which might have been prevented is too heavy in this time, when we boast of our efficiency and praise the skill which has made us such a nation of wealth and production," said the labor secretary.

BARBERS' AUDITOR DEAD

Cincinnati, July 13.—Joseph Meyung, traveling auditor Journeymen Barbers' International Union, died in this city after a short illness. He was stricken in Spokane and lived but a few days after arrival at his home in this city.

WIN FIVE-DAY WEEK

Indianapolis, July 13.—Plasterers won the five-day week. More than 150 workers are directly benefited.

POST OFFICE DEFICIT AGAIN STALKS ABROAD

Washington, July 13.—The perennial post office deficit haunts the new administration and hopes of a tax reduction fades.

The deficit may total $200,000,000, by far the greatest drain on the Treasury ever caused by this department.

"Skilled accountancy and supermanagement will fail to check deficits in the post office under present conditions," said Leo E. George, president National Federation of Post Office Clerks.

"The whole trouble," said Mr. George, "can be traced to the failure to consider the post office more than a business institution where budgets can be balanced.

"Take, for instance, the government's policy in developing aviation that will serve the nation in time of war. The cost of an air mail letter is 5 cents. The average cost to the pound. For this $2 the government pays private air mail contractors as high as $8 a pound to transport this mail. Millions of dollars are also expended for carrying foreign mail in order to assist private shipping in building up an American merchant marine.

"The government spends millions of dollars in carrying public documents, the Congressional Record, franked letters, and printed matter for the blind.

"The Post Office Department can not be placed on a dollars-and-cents basis, no more than the Department of State, of Labor, of Agriculture, or bureaus, such as Education and Child Welfare.

"Postal workers have urged that the social activities of the Post Office Department be separated from its business side, and that credit be given the department for social activities. This plan is called for in the Kelly bill. It would then be found that deficits would be more imaginary than real."

CHINESE IMMIGRATION FOE DIES IN FAR WEST

Santa Rosa, Calif., July 13.—Thomas J. Geary, former Congressman from this state, died here. He was active a generation ago in the campaign to secure a Chinese exclusion act.

The trade union movement at that time stood practically alone in warning the nation of results that would follow unrestricted Oriental immigration. But the yellow man worked for low wages and the warning was pushed until small business and agriculture were invaded. The "yellow peril" was then conceded.

PROFITS FOR MELLONS

MORE THAN $40,000,000

New York, July 13.—Those are prosperous days for Secretary of the Treasury Mellon and the Mellon family. Their fortunes were increased by more than $40,000,000 as a result of the rapid rise of Aluminum Company and Gulf Oil holdings.

Aluminum stock soared $45.50 a share in one day

INVESTMENT TRUSTS IN PRINTING TRADES

Washington, July 13.—"The investment trust is invading the printing trades and this development of uncontrolled finance is in its infancy," said John B. Haggerty, president International Brotherhood of Bookbinders.

"These investment trusts," the trade unionist explained, "are formed by men of vast resources. They take over a profitable concern which is exploited to the limit. Investment is made in any line of production, thus diversifying holdings and minimizing loss.

"The principle of the investment trust is sound, but it is being used by blue-sky promoters and 100-per-cent profiteers. This element has entered the printing trades. Their immediate objective is trade journals, but the plan will undoubtedly be extended. Only recently the Federal Trade Commission showed that the International Paper and Power Company invested millions of dollars in the newspaper field.

"These blue-sky investment trusts are immune from regulation and law. The Sherman act does not exist, as far as they are concerned.

"Banking control of the printing industry is more prominent in the Southwest. The 44-hour strike of 1921 brought near bankruptcy to many concerns. Banks now control these plants that are operated on the non-union basis. Managers are but errand boys for banks that shape the labor policy of these concerns."

LOW WAGE CIGAR GIRLS URGED TO JOIN UNION

Philadelphia, July 13.—Uniformed guards at the factory gates of anti-union cigar factories in this city watch low wage girls get interested in organized labor.

The principal plants are Bayuk Brothers and Congress Cigar Company. Girls are paid 55 cents and less per thousand and are forced to clean the machines on their own time after a 10-hour day.

Employers are attempting to arouse racial hatred among the white and colored girls. The latter are employed as strippers.

LABOR'S POLITICAL PARTY STAND EXPRESSED BY UNIONISTS IN 1906

Minneapolis Convention A. F. of L., 1906

Your committee does not feel called upon to even ask this convention to say whether an independent labor party is a desirable thing or not.

Our membership can settle that matter for themselves.

We do say, however, that the attempt to delegate any authority, by this convention, to form political organizations on any specific lines, would to that extent identify the Federation of Labor with a party movement and inevitably vitiate one of the most fundamental principles of trade unionism. Political movements are ephemeral. The trade union movement is the permanent power from the affiliated bodies which make up the Federation.

GIRLS "MAY" PICKET CIGAR TRUST PLANT

New Brunswick, N. J., July 13.—Counsel for the General Cigar Company notified attorneys for striking girl employes that he will "permit" strikers to have five pickets stationed at the plant and that these pickets "may" speak to strikebreakers.

An injunction has been issued against the girls doing any of the things the company attorney permits. This graciousness on the part of the company can be traced to a public sentiment in favor of the strikers and a fear of the girls' reprisals.

The girls are of Polish and Hungarian parentage. The priest of the Polish Catholic Church and the minister of the Hungarian church both pleaded with their parishoners to aid the girls, who were forced to resist coercive measures by the management to break their strike.

Rates on the cigar plant range from $4 to $12 a week. Children under 16 operate power machines and every other factory law in the New Jersey laws for the protection of women and children is being violated.

Henry F. Hilfers, general organizer A. F. of L., is aiding the girls.

ORDERS FROM MOSCOW SPLIT COMMUNISTS

New York, July 13.—"Right wing" Communists in this country are opposed by the "left wing" internationale at Moscow, and the "right" leader has been expelled. The victimized comrade and his associates are dissatisfied and their whispering program has caused the central committee of the Communist Party of the United States to issue an appeal for harmony.

The regulars denounce "word protestations of loyalty to the party" and mobilization of disloyalty. The disaffection is expected to result in California, Connecticut, where, the statement says, "Comrades are showing some hesitation in accepting orders from Moscow."

"The time for compromise has passed," says the statement, and further expulsions are hinted.

This internal quarrel is the usual split between the hateful of Communists who advise trade unionists to beware of bureaucrats.

LAUNDRY GIRLS WIN

Butte, Mont., July 13.—Organized laundry girls won a 10 per cent raise that was sharply contested for six weeks. Rates are advanced $1 a week. The agreement states that both parties shall co-operate in the enforcement of sanitary regulations in laundries.

STRIKE COMPROMISED

St. Louis, Mo., July 13.—Boiler makers compromised their short strike for a wage increase of 10 cents an hour. Rates were advanced 5 cents. Inside men will be paid 95 cents an hour, outside men, $1.37½, and outside helpers, $1.27½.

HENRY OTT IS DEAD

Cincinnati, July 13.—Henry Ott died in a local hospital following a heart attack. He was president Ohio Federation of Labor from 1906 to 1907 and served two terms in the state legislature.